

# Rawlings-Blake wants CSX intermodal facility in Baltimore

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Bemoaning CSX Corp.'s slow-moving plans to build a Baltimore-Washington Rail Intermodal Facility, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on Thursday called on the rail giant to abandon its search process and reroute the project into the city.

CSX has been studying four sites in Beltsville, Hanover, Jessup and Dorsey to house a facility that would connect CSX's (NYSE: CSX) double-stack train network to other modes of transportation.

A letter addressed to CSX CEO Michael J. Ward and signed by Rawlings-Blake called further delay by CSX "unacceptable," adding the company's failure to quickly select a site could threaten Baltimore's economy.

The letter continued: "With the widening of the Panama Canal nearing completion, we need to ensure that more cargo can be efficiently transported to and from the port in a way that makes economic sense for shippers and keeps Baltimore relevant in the 21st-century global economy."

The Panama Canal widening is scheduled to be completed in 2015 and is expected to be a boon for the Port of Baltimore.

The solution, according to the letter, is to "identify an appropriate site for the Intermodal Facility in Baltimore City and begin planning, design and construction."

The letter did not identify specific city sites for the project.